



Spalding High School

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Headmistress Mrs M Anderson B.Ed

4th May 2020

Dear parents, carers and students,

I very much hope that this letter finds you all safe and well. Here is our weekly update letter for the week beginning Monday 4th May.

Key worker supervision Monday 11th May – Friday 22nd May:

Key worker information and the Local Authority form remain on the homepage of the school website (under useful links, Covid-19). If key worker parents wish to send their child to school during the fortnight of Monday 11th May – Friday 22nd May, please email the School enquiries email no later than **Thursday 7th May**. Parents need to register that they would like their child to attend during this fortnight but note they can (as per the arrangements explained below) withdraw attendance on particular days as we appreciate that this makes it slightly easier for parents working shift patterns.

If parents wish to withdraw their child from attending during this fortnight, please do the following:

- Inform us if possible, by 3pm the day before withdrawal and no later than 9am on the day, the child does not attend.
- If the child is unwell and unable to attend, please notify us before 9am as per the normal absence procedures.

School Transport:

If key worker parents rely on school transport, please note the following from the Local Authority: “Please contact us if your child will be attending school on different days or not at all so that transport can be changed as required. This includes any new eligible children that start to attend schools or colleges. Please note it may take up to five days for transport arrangements to be made in such circumstances.”

The Transport Team can be contacted via TSG@lincolnshire.gov.uk or 01522 782020.

Year 11 and Y13 grades:

I would like to continue to reassure students and parents that staff are following all of the instructions given by Ofqual and the examination boards regarding Centre Assessed Grades. As a school, we continue to be reassured by all of the information being received from relevant bodies that examination students should not be disadvantaged in their progression routes by the process implemented this year.

Year 12 UCAS Information Evening:

Mrs Haunch and Mrs Bushell have contacted parents and students, as we clearly cannot progress with the UCAS Information Evening under the current restrictions. Information, PowerPoints and audio files have been sent to students with the information that would have been covered on the night. Please contact Mrs Haunch and/or Mrs Bushell if you have any questions.

Year 11 Bridging Packs:

Mrs Haunch has contacted all of Year 11 by letter (school website) and student email with information and details about the bridging pack works for subjects they would like to take next academic year. Departments have created a bank of excellent transitional tasks which will not only allow students to suitably prepare for post 16 choices but also engage them back into the world of schoolwork. We anticipate that these will be available via the school website during this week.

Year 11 Prom and Year 13 Leavers' Ball:

Mrs Haunch has written to all Year 11 and Year 13 with the news that we have had to cancel these events due to the pandemic. We will work our hardest to ensure that we mark these milestones when restrictions are lifted.

Student work – Phase 3 Monday 4th May to Friday 22nd May:

Mr Love has written to parents via an In Touch email concerning Phase 3 work, which is now available on the school website. Please note that the Phase 3 instructions cover a 3-week period up to half term (Monday, 4th May to Friday, 22nd May). We have extended this to a three-week cycle of work so that we reach the natural break of the Whit half term. This also gives students time to complete and consolidate the work that has been set, not just in Phase 3 but for the previous cycles of work too, if they have work that needs to be finished.

For Years 7, 8 and 9, documents from the School Librarian, Mrs Lees, concerning the 'Accelerated Reading Scheme' will also be sent to students. As I have said in a number of earlier emails, now is a time to catch up on all those good books we have been intending to read.

Student work – Whit half term:

We will not be setting work for what would have been the Whit half term. This would have been a school holiday and will remain as such, although school will continue to be open for the children of key workers and each day a member of the Senior Leadership Team will be on site if there are issues or queries.

The Phase 4 fortnight will begin on Monday, 1st June.

Student work – Year 9 Term 6:

With effect from 1st June, Year 9 will be expected to complete the work for their core subjects – Maths, English Language, English Literature, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, MFL, Religious Studies, their chosen humanities subject (Geography or History) **and** the option subjects they have chosen for KS4. This is to allow departments and students the opportunity to prepare for subjects studied at KS4.

School Exam Week Monday 1st June – Friday 5th June:

School exam week is **cancelled** for Y7-Y10 and Y12. Teaching and learning has been disrupted during the pandemic and we will therefore not be assessing progress using school exams this year. Our internal assessment processes and common assessed tasks will allow us to monitor and track progress in other ways.

Year 7 and Y8 Reports 2019/20:

These were scheduled to be released to parents and students at the end of Term 6. In light of the pandemic we have brought the process forward and teachers have written their reports for these two year groups. They will be sent home to parents/carers shortly.

The SHS School Closure Challenge:

Thank you to those who have submitted responses to the first three School Challenges. It has been great to see your pictures of unicorns, Easter and pets. The first two PowerPoints are on the homepage of the school website and we even made the local paper:

<https://www.spaldingtoday.co.uk/news/students-channel-your-inner-unicorn-in-school-closure-challenge-9108192/>

The deadline for the Pet Challenge is Thursday 7th May. Please email your photos to the school enquiries email address; we are having great fun collating your pictures!

PE Dance Challenge:

The PE department have a challenge for you too. Poppy from Year 11 who dances with Unity UK, has choreographed a short routine for you all to have a go at.

Follow this link https://youtu.be/SIQwKph_JPw and get the whole family involved! Good luck and enjoy.

And finally:

As per my previous letter, there is such a lot of speculation in the press about when schools might or should, return. We still have no further updates or insights about when this might happen. I want to reassure all of our students and parents/carers that we are planning for the school to re-open and the health and safety measures we will have to put in place to minimise the risk of transmission and infection. The health and well-being of our students and staff remain our top priority.

As I alluded to in last week's letter, school and lessons are going to be very different for the foreseeable future as we adjust to a "new normal". At the High School, we are very much hoping that we will see at least some of our year groups (if not all of them) at some point in what would have been Term 6. However, we await further instruction from the Government as to when we might re-open.

Our contingency planning covers both a specific and broad range of issues the School will face in the coming weeks and months. These plans will be shared with you in due course. We are all very much aware that school life will change enormously, even when students are permitted to return and that the effects of the pandemic are going to affect the way we operate. Please be assured that we continue to put our students and staff at the very centre of these plans.

Wishing you and your families well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M K Anderson', written in a cursive style.

M K Anderson
Headmistress